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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

Office of Legislative Counsel
Washington, D. C. 20505

Telephone:
10 October 1978

TO: Mr. Earl Eisenhower
Select Committee on Intelligence
United States Senate

Earl:

Per our telephone conversation.



Deputy Legislative Counsel

Enclosure

78-3222

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EDITIONS

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Mr. President:

It will not come as news that I view the strengthening of our Nation's counterterrorists, counterintelligence, and intelligence functions as a vitally important National goal. At a time when some applaud efforts to publicize the identity of our intelligence assets under the misguided belief that this serves a higher moral purpose than the survivability of our Nation, I think it is important that Congress express the contrary view to demonstrate that we have the National will to persevere with intelligence programs which are important to our National interests.

The expression of National will should not be left solely to oratory but requires concrete, authoritative action.

The legislation now before this body is an example of what I am talking about. H.R. 12171 has the overall objective of opening up to the GAO the expenditure accounts throughout the Federal bureaucracy. However, and this is the point I wish to stress, with respect to the intelligence accounts of some of the most sensitive, highly guarded activities of our Government the legislation before us makes specific provisions to maintain the fundamental secrecy which must exist if we are really serious

about our need for obtaining and fostering cooperation from others who at great personal risk help our Nation in the areas of sensitive foreign intelligence and counterintelligence activities. These provisions are a concrete expression of our National will to retain needed security for our foreign intelligence and counterintelligence apparatus. It should be noted that in making this accommodation of interest the legislation retains the traditional oversight role for the intelligence committees of both Houses--subjecting intelligence activities to review in a manner preserving the fundamental security imperatives involved.